

PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE LOVE

A close-up photograph of a single white trillium flower in full bloom. The flower has three large, white, slightly ruffled petals and a bright yellow center. It is supported by a green stem with several large, heart-shaped green leaves. The background is a soft-focus forest floor with various green plants and fallen leaves.

AN UPDATE ON YOUR IMPACT

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Michigan Barefoot Memories

The Little Traverse Conservancy Team

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The 3,784 individuals, families, businesses, and foundations who are current members.

VOLUNTEERS

The 215 volunteers who donate thousands of hours.

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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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Emily Hughes, Membership Coordinator
Lindsay Hall, Communications Specialist

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Cacia Lesh

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Becky Wadleigh, Land Protection Specialist

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Sarah Koetje, Education Specialist
Brad Von Blon, Education Specialist

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A Teacher, An Outdoorsman

by Kieran Fleming, Executive Director

We meet some pretty interesting people in this business and Larry Liebler is case in point. I knew him as more of a legend at first. While at my in-laws' farm deer hunting 25 years ago, my father-in-law would always make a point to go visit "Liebler and the boys" at a deer camp the group owned adjacent to Wilderness State Park. LTC eventually worked with this group when they sold that property to the State Park. I met Larry off and on over the years, but got to know him better in recent history.

Larry is an avid sportsman and on the Board of the Tip of the Mitt Quality Deer Management Association (TOMQDMA). You may recall that LTC has recently partnered with TOMQDMA, the North Country Sportsman's Club and the Brave Hearts Estate. The primary goal of the partnership is to get disabled veterans deer hunting during two special seasons each fall. Each veteran is taken by a volunteer "guide" to an area previously selected. Larry and I both volunteer as guides for the Independence Hunt in October, and through this I have come to know him, respect him, and enjoy his company.

Larry, along with Mike Brown at Brave Hearts Estate, usually takes on the complicated task of lining up 10 to 20 veteran hunters with a guide and a place to hunt. Many locations are on LTC lands. Larry arrives very early to make sure everyone is organized. He travels countless miles beforehand scouting and determining the best places. He invests a great deal of his heart and soul into providing the best experience possible for these men and women. I remember two years ago when Larry took a particularly tough assignment. His hunter that day was Leroy, a Vietnam veteran who was on kidney dialysis at the time. Many of our veterans are suffering from illnesses including cancer, PTSD, and a host of other afflictions

related to their time in combat. The dialysis meant Leroy would be confined to the truck, yet the rules allow hunters like him to hunt from a vehicle. Larry set up his truck so Leroy could be comfortable in the back seat with a rifle mount on the window. Leroy missed a few deer that day but you will never meet a man as cheerful or grateful for having the opportunity to get out in the woods with a buddy.



Larry Liebler and grandkids setting up hunting blinds at the 2018 Independence Hunt.

One of the other veterans who got a deer that weekend gave it to Leroy. We were told that Leroy drove a couple laps around his hometown so people would see his deer. Leroy died just a few months later.

That story always makes me tear up. Leroy, by all accounts, was a great man who gave it all in the end for his country. His attitude was something I will always envy. But I am also moved by what Larry did, and continues to do, as if it were ordinary.

Larry is the Building Trades instructor at Petoskey High School, and is retiring this spring. While I am happy for him as he moves on to new adventures, my guess is he is irreplaceable as a teacher. I have seen the Building Trades program firsthand and it is very impressive.

If you haven't been out to see the nature megaphone at the Boyd B. Banwell Nature Preserve, it is worth the trip. The entire project was planned and executed by Larry, his Building Trades class, and our own staff member, Charles Dawley. In fact, they have a new project involving a very large bat house in the works right now (see page 10).

I love that our local Building Trades Instructor and a land conservancy have so much in common. Larry has passed his love for the outdoors onto his son Nick, who is also active with the TOMQDMA and the veterans' hunts. It's no surprise that Larry told me that upon retirement he is going to spend more time taking his grandkids, who help him scout and set up the hunting blinds for the veterans, out in the woods. No doubt they will forever cherish the time they spend with their grandfather, and the outdoors will be the center of that relationship.

And like any other self respecting super hero, Larry has no ego that I can detect nor does he seek the limelight. Heck, I bet just seeing this column will make him cringe. But we should celebrate great teachers; they rarely get the credit they deserve. Sorry Larry, but not sorry.

Larry values our natural resources, he takes action to steward them, and then he passes all of that onto the generations behind him. From my observation deck that sounds exactly like LTC's land conservation, stewardship, and education philosophy. Thanks for all you do in our community and congratulations on your pending retirement, Larry!

The Maple River

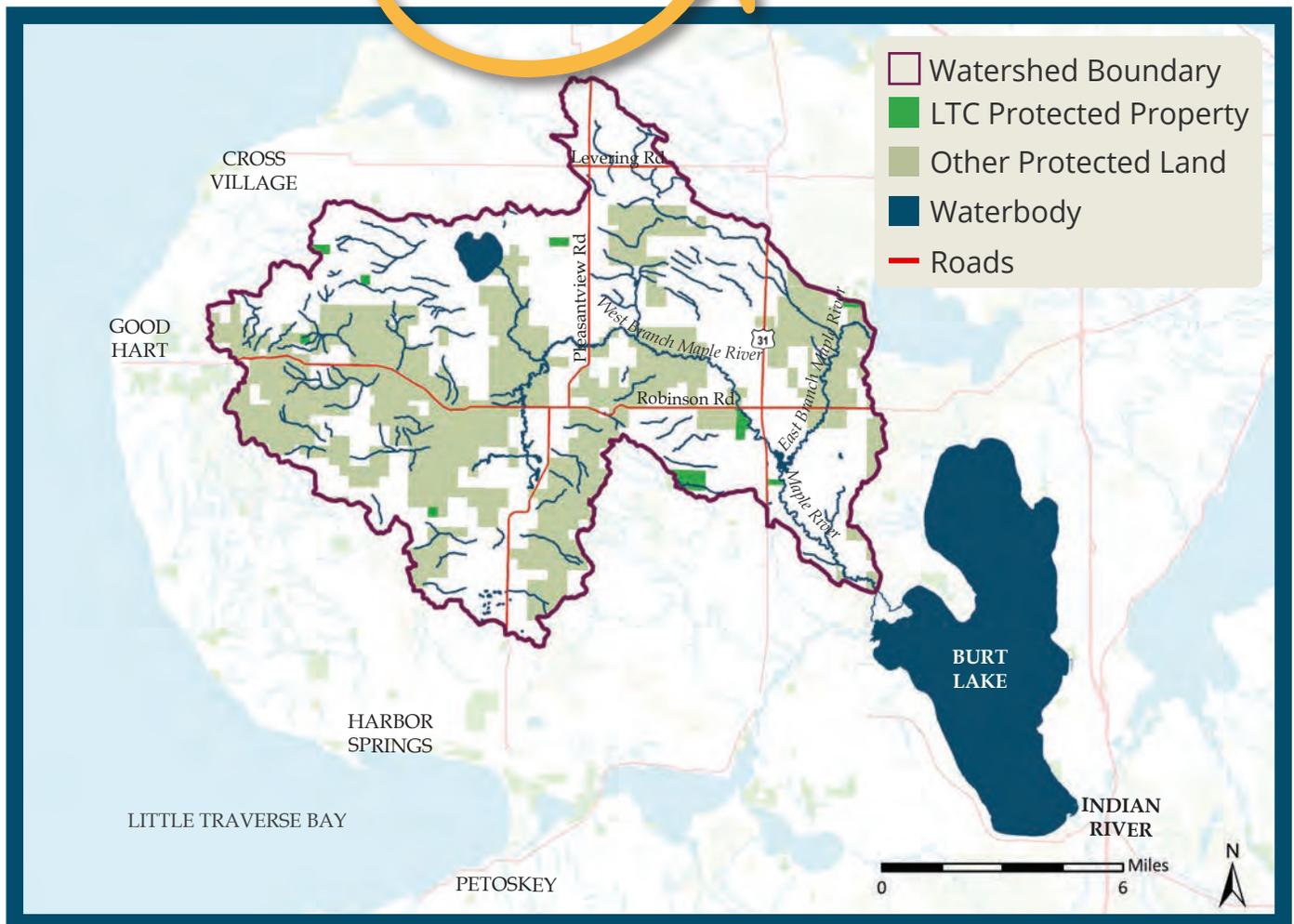
The Inextricable Connection Between Nature and the Health of...EVERYTHING!

Recently, our staff was asked to describe how the protection of the Maple River Watershed—a current LTC focus area — benefits the human population.

Clearly a healthy watershed protects water quality. Did you know that the Maple River Watershed drains over 100,000 acres of land before it empties into Burt Lake? Those same waters then travel through the remainder of the Inland Waterway eventually flowing through the Cheboygan River adjacent to downtown Cheboygan and into Lake Huron. What a broad impact!

To take it further, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines “ecosystem services” as life-sustaining benefits that we receive from nature. The agency notes that a healthy, undisturbed watershed ecosystem also provides:

- Habitat health with reduced risk for invasive species
- Improved diverse natural communities
- Reduced water treatment, infrastructure, and flood mitigation costs
- Increased revenues, job opportunities, and property values to residents
- Carbon storage opportunities
- Increased resilience in the face of changes in our climate



Watershed



Canoeing and surveying bird populations on the West Branch of the Maple River

And more science: according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory's Biological Rarity Index data (based on known sightings), the Biological Rarity Index along the Maple River corridor varies from high to very high, meaning there is a reasonably high likelihood that threatened, endangered, and special concern species are found there.

The Maple River Watershed, locally referred to as the ecological heartbeat of Emmet County, includes a sprawling complex of forest, fields and a virtually untouched river corridor known as the "Pleasantview Swamp." These lands provide miles of scenic frontage and connect population centers from north to south.

Maple River Watershed: 100,000+ acres

LTC Protected Lands in watershed: 2,200+ acres

Other Protected Lands in watershed: 29,000+ acres

Of course, there are so many intangible ways that natural land helps our mental state on a daily basis. While most of us know this intuitively, the hard research to prove the mental benefits of nature is growing all the time. A study reported in a 2018 article of Environmental Research found that greenspace exposure is associated with numerous health benefits with statistically significant reductions in diastolic blood pressure, salivary cortisol, and heart rate.

Natural land and healthy earth aren't just a luxury... these things are a necessity for all living things on earth to not simply live, but to live well. And indeed, in the words of poet Mary Oliver,

*"Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?"*

One simple answer for each of us is: **To flourish.**

HOFFMANN ADDITION



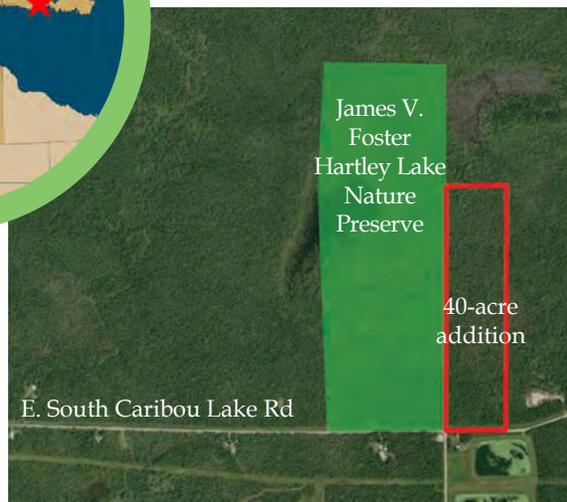
A 5-acre addition to the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve in Charlevoix County was recently donated by Betty Hoffmann. The addition brings the preserve to a total of 138 acres and the nature preserve complex (which includes the adjacent Diane and Richard DeNardis Family Nature Preserve) to 207 acres. The land includes areas of wetlands, old apple trees, grassy meadows, and small pockets of northern hardwood trees. It also adds 300 feet of frontage on US-31.

James V. Foster Hartley Lake Nature Preserve Grows by **40 Acres**



With funding through the Michigan Wetlands Board, Little Traverse Conservancy recently acquired a 40-acre addition to the James V. Foster Hartley Lake Nature Preserve in Chippewa County near DeTour. This addition brings the property to 160 acres.

The original 120 acres of the preserve were donated to LTC in 2012 by Bradley Foster to honor his family's connection to this land and their love of the outdoors. The land includes the roughly 25-acre Hartley Lake, as well as a diversity of habitat that make it excellent for wildlife to thrive. No formal trails exist on the property other than old roads used by the family many years ago.



ISLAND TIME

Clark Island Nature Preserve Donated

A large portion of Clark Island off the south end of Drummond Island has been donated by Robert Ruth to become a permanent nature preserve. With the forest cover predominantly white cedar and balsam fir, this classic northern Lake Huron shoreline includes 15 acres and 1,300 feet of Great Lakes shore in Chippewa County.

Since he was young, Robert's grandfather would take him on trips to the Upper Peninsula, helping Robert develop a love for the land and an instinct to be a naturalist. "From early on, I wanted my own property up there," he explained, recalling that for many years he would drive all over the U.P. looking at different land. A coincidental encounter with a fellow Marine led him to Drummond Island where the man sold Robert his first piece of land at what he knew was an incredible deal ("we call it the Marine discount," he said warmly). From that point on, he continued to look for land around Drummond Island and found the Clark Island property which "was so thick, you couldn't see 10 feet in any direction." For the next 40 years, Robert groomed the property to make it more accessible, adding about a half mile of trails. At one time, he did consider selling the land for development, but when it came down to it, he just couldn't do it. "The land has everything. Deer love it, there has been a family of fox, and I have seen mink there. It has been a labor of love and means much more than money to me, so I figured the best thing was to turn it back to nature. Some people go to church, but to me land like this is my cathedral."

"Robert has cared deeply about this land for many years and it is the ultimate gift of protection to make a donation such as this," said Conservancy Director of Land Protection, Caitlin Donnelly.

Because the road to Clark Island is privately owned, public access to the nature preserve is only by water. At this time, LTC does not have any plans to create trails or other enhancements to the preserve.



35,000
Islands in the Great Lakes

1,000
Islands within
Michigan waters

25
Islands protected by LTC

80-Acre

Land Protected Using Conservation Investment Tool

Reinvigorating a land protection tool started in 2000, the Conservancy recently purchased an 80-acre undeveloped property in northern Emmet County. LTC then protected it with a conservation easement and re-sold it on the open market to a buyer interested in acquiring a conservation/hunting land. The land consists of regenerating fallow farm field with pockets of northern hardwoods and aspen stands.

"We are pleased to have the Conservation Investment land protection tool back in action," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "It is a creative solution for protecting land at a low expense to the Conservancy, while ensuring its permanent protection."

What is the Conservation Investment Program?

Nearly 20 years ago, Little Traverse Conservancy launched the idea of the Conservation Investment Program, a cost-effective way to protect large acreages of land, while keeping properties on the tax rolls. In a nutshell, this program allows the Conservancy to purchase land, protect it with a conservation easement, and re-sell it to a conservation-minded buyer. The land remains protected from development and subdivision, but still in private ownership. Typical lands protected by this tool have been larger in acreage and in more remote parts of our service area.

Straight to the Hart

Your generosity puts land in safe hands

For nearly two decades Little Traverse Conservancy has been building a corridor of protected properties that make up the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve in Emmet County. Offering nearly seven miles of continuous trails, it has become a local favorite. At the end of 2019, the Conservancy purchased an additional 10 acres to be added to the preserve for a total of 695 acres!

This addition was made possible by a partnership with Ruth Murphy, whose great-grandparents, George and Merle McNamara, owned the property in the early 1900s. Over the next century, the property was passed to family members and finally came into the ownership

of Ruth's mother, Joan Schmoltdt (Kushak). After Joan passed away, Ruth worked with the Conservancy to add the property to the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve so her family would always have a place to return to in Good Hart. "I'm happy that it won't be developed, and that it will be a place that we can always go back to and feel a connection to our family and to nature. We will always have this connection to Good Hart," Ruth said. "And now the property is in safe hands."

Your continued support as an LTC member ensures that this property, as well as all LTC protected lands, will be preserved forever.



Why do **YOU** Care About Protecting Nature?

by Sarah Mayhew,
Director of Education

The first thing our educators do when students file off the bus is greet them with big smiles and gather everyone in a circle. When we can see all of their excited faces, we introduce ourselves, the organization we represent, and the nature preserve we're going to be exploring that day. A typical conversation about the Conservancy includes asking students why they think an organization like ours exists. "Why do we care about protecting nature?" we ask them. Our answers are generally predictable. Regardless of the age, students recognize that animals need a place to live. Some also associate the importance of trees and their role in providing oxygen. For many, the idea of land conservation is foreign, something they hadn't really put much thought into. We explore this concept a bit more before setting expectations and departing on our adventure.

On a brisk January morning, the bus pulled into the Round Lake Nature Preserve and all of the kindergarten children waddled off. Bundled in their colorful snow gear and ready for adventure they gathered in our customary circle. When our WHY question was posed, the mittens all shot into the air. The classic responses were given, but it was one little girl whose response I'm sure to remember for years to come. Her rosy cheeks beamed as she replied, "Because to me nature makes the whole world more beautiful." It was at this time that my heart melted into a puddle (as I'm sure her teacher's did also given the glance we exchanged). She was absolutely right. Protected space does make the world more beautiful. It was a perfect new year reminder of why we do what we do. For her. For all of the little ones whose views of the world are that of beauty and wonder.



Did you know?

Moments like these come with no price tag for the school. YOU are bringing a smile to a child's face because your gifts allow LTC to offer education programs free of charge. Through an LTC membership, you are instilling an appreciation of the environment for our next generations.

"Because to me nature makes the whole world more beautiful."

Spring into Citizen Science

BioBlitz 2020

More than 1,300 species of bats around the world play an important ecological role that is vital to the health of natural ecosystems and human economies. However, loss of habitat is the most widespread problem leading to declining bat populations worldwide.

Here in Michigan there are nine species of bats, and they depend on our forests as they disperse from their winter hibernacula to their summer foraging and roosting sites. Today bats are in need of conservation more than ever, and building your own bat house is a great way to get involved. LTC is partnering with the Petoskey High School Building Trades class to construct a Bat Condo to be placed on one of the Conservancy's properties. The bat condo is designed to house up to 3,000 little brown bats, and mimics the bats' natural habitat of loose shaggy bark and hollow trees.

Volunteers are needed to help collect bio-acoustic data to pinpoint bat populations on preserves. Contact cacia@landtrust.org to get involved.



Little Brown Bat, J.N. Stuart

Wonder and awe birth creativity, curiosity, and a passion for conservation. From the small and obscure to the common and charismatic, the plants and animals of the North Country make this a unique and rich place to live. Let's celebrate and get inspired, explore, and discover.

LTC's Biodiversity Celebration Week is coming July 12 - 17!

Save the date!



This winter, the Conservancy and CAKE (our local invasive species collaborative in Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet counties) held a Citizen Science training for identifying the Eastern hemlock tree killer: the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

The response to this opportunity was inspiring! Our meeting room was packed with people who wanted to help. A true testament to the intentionality and dedication of the LTC family.

As humans, we have the unique ability (compared to other creatures) to respond to the cry of the non-human world. And the good news is, current technology has made it easier than ever for us to do it together. (Examples include eBird, iNaturalist, and other apps that help us identify and record what we discover!)

Have you seen the migration maps from eBird lately? (www.ebird.com) They are a great example of how people all over the globe can add individual data points that show us when and where a species is moving. This is incredibly vital information for those working to conserve that species.

If you would like to get more involved in citizen science, contact our Stewardship department and we'll support you in your learning journey. Together, we can ensure that the Eastern hemlock and so many other species continue to thrive in the North Country.



Eastern Hemlock

Thank You



Bill Mayhew for helping with Mackinaw City Schools birding programs at Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve.

Volunteer parking area plowers: **Tim DeWick and the Les Cheneaux Club.**

Volunteer trail groomers: **Dan Mann, Zach Skiera, Randy Tarzwell and Todd Wright.**

Mary Jane Clayton for counting trail camera data.

Hannah D'Angelo for working on special database projects.

Mary Trout for her endless support and passion for educating children about birds through the Sheridan Elementary After School Birding program.

Ethan Jacobs for spending his Christmas break from college volunteering to monitor nature preserves.

Kyle Wagenschutz for doing trail maintenance at Wisser-Saworski Preserve as part of his high school volunteer service.

The following individuals and groups for their assistance and partnership on community field trips: **Avery Arts and Nature Center (Hessel School House) and the Americana Foundation Nature Series program, Elliot Nelson, the Greenwood Foundation, the Parsons Family, Bird's Eye Outfitters, Outhouse Consortium, Nourish Cafe, Nina Fearon, and Richard Jenkins.**

Volunteers **Dan Dueweke, Tom and Kimberly Rowland, and John and Mary Merrill** who made chili and helped host the Winter Open House at the Agnes S. Andrae Nature Preserve.

Friends of Les Cheneaux Islands Trails volunteers for helping maintain the Birge/Mertaugh/Nye/Wallace Nature Preserve Complex trails.

Preserve Perfectionists **John Baker, Dan Dueweke, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, Glen Matthews, Renee McDuffee, John and Mary Merrill, and Tom Rowland** for Tuesday help with anything we ask, from removing invasive Scots pine to stacking firewood.

Mary Bea McWatters for creating coloring pages featuring local birds for our birding programs.

Tom Gallagher (Harbor Springs Excavating) for providing technical advice and expert direction for a preserve parking area design.

Eagle Scout candidate **Grant Forbrig** for building and installing American kestrel nest boxes as his Eagle Scout project. And thanks to **Jim and Wendy Bean** for helping Grant install the nest boxes on LTC preserves.

Joe and Barbara Traub for donating funds to add gravel at the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve parking area.

Joe Graham for providing research related to the Tanton Family Mountain Biking Trail project.

Ed DeRoshia and CAKE CISMA for educating our volunteers on how to survey LTC properties for the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insect.

Cheryl Graham-Dryer, Dianne Litzenburger and Marty Amlin for editing our publications.



Spring Beauty

New Members

The following individuals, families, and businesses joined Little Traverse Conservancy between November 15, 2019 and February 13, 2020.

Kathy Anane
Edward and Jennifer Arbaugh
Kit Baum and Paula Arnold
Melvin and Debby
Aschenbrenner
Sue Aspinall
Russ and Luann Axdorff
Jane M. Baker
Theresa and Thomas Baker
David and Kathy Bouma
Russell Benz
Austin Blaskowski
Ms. Angelina Buskirk
The Buza Family
Christine Casari
Loren and Angel Chudler
Marimartha and Tim Clark
Tim and Susan Collins
Ms. Eliza Crowder
Frank and Sherril Crump
Anna Delia
Carol Derkin
Amy Dickinson
Leslie Ann and Michael
Diebol
Dennis and Jacque Durco
Thomas C. Dye
Bob and Gail Egan
Jack and Barb Favret
Ms. Diane Feldman
Mr. Bruce Ferris
Michael and Angela Florek
Bruce and Mary Sue Forni
Ms. Belinda Friis

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett
Kathy and Richard Genthe
Tom and Julie Goodrich
Andrew Gordon
Michael and Janet Goyne
Rev. A. Theodore Halstead
Trudy Haussmann and
Robert Haugan
Robert and Nancy Hayden
Dennis and Lori Heathfield
Thomas J. Hermann
Ron and Pat Hoekman
John D. Hogan
Charles and Lori Holmquist
William and Nadra Johnson
Jean Kandt Hawkins
William C. Kelly
John T. and Amy B. Kelly
Matthew L. Kelly
Michelle R. Kemple
Erin Kirkland and Sean
Proctor
David Klco
Doug and Dianna Knight
Dani Knoph
Marshal Knott
Margaret and Michael
LaChapelle
Randy J. and Gail Leino
Thomas and Annette
Lockwood
James and Nancy Neaher
Maas
Ms. Diane Malott

Mr. Richard Mandle
Sally and Bill Martin
Carolyn Mass
Bill McCune
John and Mary Lou
McIlwraith
Dr. Rick McNelly
Brett and Carin Meyer
Ms. Susan Miller
Caroline Moellering
Scott and Barbara
Muhlhauser
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Murray
Perry Nelson and Clare
Sullivan
Ken Newa
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald V.
Pacheco
Patrick C. and Nan Patterson
John Perreault and Robin
Ferguson
John and Julie Podulka
Richard and Amy Price
Justin Proulx
Glenn and Barbara Reed
Rachel Rehor
Mr. Greg Rekowski
Robison Family
Ronna Romstad
Kenneth Rudman
Margo Sabourin

Mr. and Mrs. Buck Scott
Stafford and Janice Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Smith
George and Linda Spray
Kenneth and Margaret
Stapleton
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan M. Swift
Patricia Swope
Jeffrey and Susan Thompson
Dr. and Mrs. Henry P.
Williams, III
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Yerman

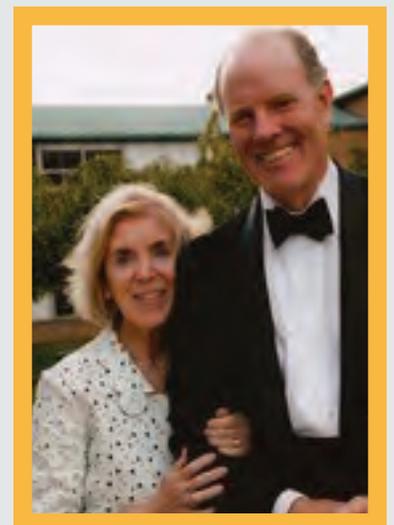
We apologize for the spelling error in the 2019 Winter Newsletter and would also like to thank the Charles M. & Joan R. Taylor Foundation for their generous and long-term support of LTC's land protection program and our endowment.

Member Spotlight

LYN AND JOHN BELL

"Your remarkable success in putting land donations to their highest and best uses has been a model for other nonprofits. And your engaging the community through education, especially younger children, is providing a long-term awareness of the importance of your work. We have the highest regard for your thoughtful use of contributions and will continue to be one of your many loyal supporters."

- Lyn and John Bell



2020 Spring Events

Events are offered at no charge, but registration is requested by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org unless otherwise noted. Full program descriptions are also available online.

WATERFOWL IN THE U.P.

Saturday, April 11

3 - 6pm / Hessel Schoolhouse/Avery Arts & Nature Center

Join instructor Elliot Nelson of Michigan Sea Grant and Dr. Jason Garvon, professor of conservation biology at LSSU, for a presentation and outing on the amazing waterfowl of the U.P. This program is in partnership with the Hessel Schoolhouse/Avery Arts & Nature Center as part of a series funded by the Americana Foundation. To register, visit www.hesselschoolhouse.org or call 906.484.1333.

EARTH WEEK EXPO

Saturday, April 18

10am - 1:45pm / Cheboygan High School

Stop by the annual Earth Week Plus Expo to visit LTC staff and dozens of other organizations as we gather to celebrate and honor Earth Day. A free, family-friendly event featuring presentations, interactive displays, and field trips for all ages. See www.earthweekplus.org for all events.

EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING

Saturday, April 25

10am - 3pm / Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve

(Also National Volunteer Week)

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity for the whole family? Kids love tree planting, and it is a great way to give back and get outside on a spring day. For the third year in a row we are planting 2,000 trees, and need your help to get them in the ground and watered. Bring shovels for you and the whole family. Water and snacks will be provided.

SPRING HIKE AT DUNCAN BAY

Saturday, April 25

2pm / Duncan Bay Nature Preserve

Close out Earth Week by joining LTC and other partners for a walk on the new trail and boardwalk at the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve. The trail is suited for all ages and abilities. No need to pre-register as this event is part of Cheboygan's Earth Week Expo.

AWESOME AMPHIBIANS

Saturday, April 25

6 - 8pm / Hessel Schoolhouse/Avery Arts & Nature Center

You know spring has truly arrived when you start hearing the peeps of the Spring Peeper and the "quack" of the Wood Frog. Let's wander around the wetlands of local preserves and natural areas to see how many species of frogs and toads we can identify. This program is in partnership with the Hessel Schoolhouse/Avery Arts & Nature Center as part of a series funded by the Americana Foundation. To register, visit www.hesselschoolhouse.org or call 906.484.1333.

SKY DANCING WITH THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Thursday, April 30

7:30pm / LTC Office

Join LTC staff and the Ruffed Grouse Society to learn about and witness the incredible spring mating display of the American Woodcock. We will begin at LTC's office and carpool to a nearby nature preserve to listen and watch for the birds.

WORKSHOP ON HAND TOOLS FOR TREE CLEARING

Saturday, May 2

9am - 12pm / LTC Office

Do you enjoy the quiet solitude of the woods? Would you rather clear a deadfall without the noise and weight of a chainsaw? Join LTC volunteer and U.S. Forest Service certified Crosscut Sawyer Dan Dueweke for a one-hour presentation indoors, followed by hand-sawing exercises outside. Please bring your own hand tools and an axe or crosscut saw if you have them. Group size is limited so registration is required.

TREE PLANTING WORK BEE

Tuesday, May 5

9am - 3pm / Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve

We will be planting 350 trees to kick start forest succession and keep out invasive plants. This is your chance to give back to the environment and know that you are planting a seed from which thousands of trees and seeds will grow. Join us for good company and a fun project. We will provide snacks and water. Bring work gloves, lunch, and dress for the weather.

FAMILY BIRDING

Saturday, May 9

10 - 11:30am / Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve

Join LTC volunteer and avid birder Mary Trout for a nature walk at this dynamic reserve. A variety of habitats host a diversity of bird species here. In years past we have observed Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, many warblers, and more. Please bring your own binoculars if you have them. A limited number of child binoculars will be available for use.

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday, May 10

1 - 3pm / Emmet or Charlevoix County, location to be announced
Celebrate Mother's Day with a hike through a rich, northern-hardwood forest to enjoy spring wildflowers. Let's gather for a walk among the spring beauties and trillium to celebrate our Mothers and the yearly return of northern Michigan's spring ephemeral wildflowers. Families and poetry welcome.

VERNAL POOL MONITOR TRAINING

Saturday, May 16

9:30am - 4pm / Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve/Cabin, Roscommon, MI

As part of LTC's EcoStewards volunteer program, you can become a citizen scientist! Join Michigan Natural Features Inventory and Huron Pines for this in-depth training on how to survey a vernal pool for wildlife. Once you have the skills, vernal pool monitoring can become a family affair or fun spring adventure looking for frogs, salamanders and identifying their eggs. Registration required. More info at <http://vpppartnership.iescentral.com/>.

2020 ALDO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL

June 4-7

Les Cheneaux Islands

Les Cheneaux welcomes you to celebrate the legacy of Aldo Leopold, one of America's most influential naturalists, during a weekend-long festival. Activities include birding trips, paddling excursions, orchid and wildflower tours and many other nature-based activities. Come experience the woods and waters that inspired Leopold's early impressions of the natural world. Registration is online at www.aldoleopoldfestival.com.

Memorials & Honorariums

GIFTS GIVEN BETWEEN NOVEMBER 15, 2019 AND
FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

IN MEMORY OF

David Alexandrowski
Mrs. Barbara Bohls Graham

Les Atchison
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Rea

Julia Barnes
Amy and Michael Hollo

Keith Bassett
Ms. Jean Bassett

Nathan D. Beem
Anonymous

Myles Borgen
Erik and Ann Borgen

Martha Cavanagh Cameron
Kathy and Richard Genthe

Rosalie Disner
Julie and Howard Berlin
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Joanne O'Brien and Family

John Sutherland
Randel Richner and Eric Russell



Your Lasting Legacy

One of the most meaningful ways to approach life is to consider what kind of legacy you want to leave and to let that be your guiding influence. By including Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate planning, you provide the means for the Conservancy to remain strong, active and always here to protect the North Country we love.

A Legacy Member shares in the mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy and has committed to making a future legacy gift. Legacy gifts are accomplished through estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies and other planned giving options. No legacy gift is too big or too small. There is no minimum gift amount required to be a Legacy Member.

We are grateful to welcome the following as new LTC Legacy Members:

Michael T. Cameron
The Estate of Barbara Cheney
James and Evelyn Howell

Don LeClair
The Estate of Carl and Marie Linhart
The Estate of Linda Widrig Neuss

To learn more about becoming a Legacy Member or to share that you have included Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans, please contact LTC Associate Director Ty Ratliff at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

It is always the Conservancy's goal to acknowledge all of our supporters. Please accept our sincere apologies for errors of omissions – and let us know!

John Tanton
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Dr. Russell and Suzanne
LaBeau
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Peters Davies Webster
Lt Col Daniel French, USAFR (Ret)
and Margaret French

Curtis Whitaker
Randel Richner and Eric
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Francesco and Angela Viola
Nick and Betsy White

Anne Williamson
Mark Mitshkun and Diane
Rosenblum

Sally Wilson
Ms. Linda Heller

Todd Winnell
Evening Star Joinery

Outstanding Partner Award

LTC has a long history of partnering with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The most recent shared land conservation project was the Storey Lake project where LTC helped the state acquire 2,100 acres in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. Over the years, Ty Ratliff has been our lead person on many of these projects, including Storey Lake. This winter, Kerry Wieber, Forest Land Administrator for the DNR, successfully nominated Ty for the Outstanding Partner Award from the Forest Resources Division. Kerry had these thoughtful words to describe her nomination choice:

"I don't know that it is possible for the DNR - and specifically Forest Resources Division (FRD) - to have a better partner than Little Traverse Conservancy. Ty worked diligently with FRD staff to achieve the goal of securing Storey Lake for future generations. Over the 19 years that it took to acquire this property, the goal never changed and Ty's commitment never wavered. It is largely thanks to Ty's perseverance that FRD now has the privilege of managing Storey Lake on behalf of Michigan's citizens."



LTC Associate Director Ty Ratliff and Forest Land Administrator for the DNR Kerry Wieber.



Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
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The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.

What can you do for monarchs? Habitat loss and fragmentation are primary causes of decline in pollinator populations. Your membership dollars go directly towards land protection that expands and protects habitat not only for monarchs, but for all species to thrive.

PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE LOVE